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## **Dentistry in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities**

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

Dear Colleagues,

Dentistry is advancing at a rapid pace, which will benefit our patients and the profession alike. The future is very bright and the profession is gaining respect from the medical community due to the scientific bases for many of the modern techniques used in the practice of dentistry. Several areas include the use of bone grafting using autogenous, allograft and/or xenograft materials. This, added with the addition of growth factors such as rhPDGF open new treatment options in the replacement of missing bone. Another field of rapid expansion is the use of lasers to sterilize periodontal pockets and reduce/eliminate/regrow the vertical loss of hard and soft tissue, once thought impossible. Both of these areas can benefit the treatment of geriatric patients as practices treat an increasing number of patients in their 80s, 90s, and above.

Therefore, the challenge is keeping up with the rapid advances in our profession, which provide many opportunities to advance and protect the oral health of our patients, who place their trust in our judgement and skills.



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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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